

Architect's take on kitchenware

Page 16



Creatives to keep an eye on



As part of the country's continued efforts to shake off the Made-in-China stigma, the best original works by young designers are being featured at the Milan Triennale Design Museum.

Most of the designers produce limited runs and sell their works over the Internet. While creative, the limited production typically makes prices too high to attract attention from outside art circles.

However, the government and curators cherish their contributions and are working hard to push their works onto the world stage.

Read more on Pages 12-13



Web slang on exams makes teachers rage

Page 5

Luxury labels expand to small cities

Page 6

Graduates scolded for goofy photos

Page 7

Insurance tips for new expats

Page 11

Page 14

Touching the past

Step back into the days of the Republic of China through these beautiful book and magazine covers.



Pages 20-21 Folk arts at the Wall

The Badaling International Dragon Culture Festival is displaying old techniques for the new generation.



Competition seeks ideas to reuse old factory



Shougang's old factory is being remodeled for the creative industry.

By Zhang Dongya

With the capital running short on land, it is more important than ever to find creative ways to reuse space.

The 2nd Architects in Mission (AIM), organized by the Boston-based architecture firm ZNA, began earlier this month to solicit new ideas from designers worldwide about how to reuse the old Shougang Group factory, a state-owned ironworks that dates back almost 100 years.

AIM attempts to make use of the spatial qualities of old industrial zones to transform them into low-pollution and low-energy bases for cultural businesses focused on design, multimedia and event hosting.

This year's project of focus is Ertong, the General Mechanical Factory that began as a pilot program under Shougang Group.

The old factory is being rebuilt as an animation and game industry center – construction began in June. The new area is expected to enhance the strength and competitiveness of the animation industry, and ZNA is searching for new ideas to guide the transformation.

Ertong, located in Fengtai District, is an 83-hectare plot with



AIM hopes to solicit new ideas about how to reuse the old factory.

some 300,000 square meters of building space. It has been dormant since 1997, but still has its old machinery and locomotives, which will be preserved during the transformation.

"With the expansion of the city, many landmarks and symbolic things are vanishing. It's having very bad effects on our

culture," said Chen Shijie, assistant general manager of Shougang Group.

He said designs must preserve the factory's culture and history, but do so with social value, architectural aesthetics and economic value.

The competition will continue to collect works by young, international architects with a

top cash prize of \$15,000 (97,000 yuan). The winner will be announced in September.

The first AIM competition, held last year, collected ideas for how to transform the Cable 8 Creative Center, the last factory in Beijing's central business district (CBD), into a usable creative space.

Fengtai spearheads eco-construction

By Li Zhixin

A part of the city's expansion plan, Fengtai district is being developed as an ecological screen, said Xia Zhanyi, the deputy mayor of the Beijing Municipal Government.

The changes are part of the city's preparations for the 9th China Beijing International Garden Exposition and the 75th International Seed Conference.

Fengtai created 1,577 hectares of new green area during the last five years. About 44 percent of the district's land qualified as green area, and it has 12.84 square meters of public green land per capita.

Xia said the proportion of forest and wetland areas are important to world cities. Fengtai will continue its greening project to make 46 percent of public land green. The government will also plant a million China roses and chrysanthemums to beautify urban landscape, he said.

Deng Naiping, director of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscape and Forestry, said the district will restore the river landscape along the Yongding River, Lianhua River, Fengcao River and Macao River, and provide a better waterfront leisure space for people living in Beijing.

In preparation for the 9th China Beijing International Garden Exposition in 2013, a garden equivalent to two Summer Palaces in floor space, is being built along the Yongding River. It will have sub-gardens modeled after Suzhou, Lingnan, Jiangnan and Sichuan, as well as a foreign-style garden.

District officials said future developments will be focused on the central business district at the southern central axis of the city, the Third and Fourth Ring urban industry development zones, the Yongding River Green Ecological Development Zone, Lize Financial Business District, Fengtai Science and Technology Park, Dahongmen Creative Industry Area and Qinglonghu-Changxindian Area.

"Fengtai is striving to create an eco-friendly and livable area that can gather high-end industries and financial innovators to steer urban-rural integration in line with the city's new image," said Li Chao Gang, the secretary of the Party Committee of Fengtai District.

City drops plan to rebuild Di'anmen

By Han Manman

The local government has given up its plans to reconstruct Di'anmen, a missing gate on the capital's central axis, citing traffic problems.

The original gate was built on the north side of the axis in Xicheng district in 1420. It was demolished in 1955 to improve traffic flow.

In May, the government said it was evaluating how it would protect the historic city center as it prepares to apply for UNESCO

cultural heritage status. Among its proposals was a revamp of the central axis, which would involve reconstructing Di'anmen slightly south of its original location.

Many experts said they did not believe the reconstruction would improve the city's UNESCO application and that a rebuilt relic would be inauthentic and would worsen traffic congestion.

Beijing News reported that more than 45 percent of respondents to an online survey opposed the plan.

Yin Jun, press officer of the Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, said Monday that the government had given up on the plan.

"The most important thing for any potential world heritage site is to be authentic. If you rebuild Di'anmen, it is just a replica and no longer what it was," said Liu Yang, a member of Beijing Cultural Relics Protection Association.

Li Huaqing, who lives near Di'anmen, said most of the area's residents were glad to hear the

government abandoned its plan.

"I know many people living close to Di'anmen opposed the plan when it was first announced in May. The construction would have made a mess out of traffic and damaged nearby buildings," he said. "It's great to see that the government listened to our voices and canceled the plan."

"We would prefer to see them put up a plaque on the original site instead of erecting a fake gate somewhere else," he said.

The central axis, which runs

north to south through the heart of the capital, extends 7.8 kilometers from the former Di'anmen to Yongdingmen. Other gates on the line include Zhengyangmen, Tian'anmen, Duanmen, Wumen, Taihemen, Qianqinmen and Shenwumen.

Often referred to as a "dragon vein," several important royal buildings were built on this axis including the world-famous Forbidden City and Jingshan Park, an imperial garden constructed during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Party's 90th brings boom in red tourism

By Yao Weijie

Red tourism of famous revolutionary sites is on the rise. The boom may be more than flag-waving for fans of the Communist Party of China at its 90th anniversary.

For many, it is a search for history.

The Red China Tourism Expo said famous red sites across the nation received 1.35 billion visitors, or 20 percent of all tourism traffic, during the last several years. This year, they are bracing for a five-fold increase in traffic.

Much of that can be attributed to red backpackers, who explore the sites alone instead of on organized day trips with their work units.

"Revolutionary attractions have always held a special appeal. I've always wanted to explore these historic sites on my own," said Xu Zhenya, a travel writer and fan of red tourism.

Of the historic locations he visited, Xu said his favorite was Zunyi, Guizhou Province, where Mao Zedong was elected leader of the CPC during the Long March.

"Walking Long March Road was my childhood dream," Xu said. "In my generation, the Zunyi Conference was always a topic on the National College Entrance Examination, so I wanted to see firsthand



Tourists relive moments in red history.

what made it so important."

Xu followed the route through Loushanguan, Renhuai, Xishui and Chishui. In the hardest section, he took a bus instead of driving his car.

"After seeing the landscape of Chishui, I finally understood the significance of the Zunyi Conference," Xu said. "If the Red Army hadn't elected Mao as its new leader, the battle on the Chishui River would

never have been so successful."

At Chishui, Xu spent two days retracing the footsteps of the Red Army.

"Many people suspect that the CPC's early history has been exaggerated. But when you go back and see these places, you realize just how close the stories were to the truth," Xu said.

For others, red tourism rep-

resents an opportunity to indulge in nostalgia.

"We were born in the 1980s. Although we are far removed from this period of history, I grew up watching revolutionary films and singing revolutionary songs. That's why I wanted to come and have a look," said Wang Xiaoyi, editor of *Traveler* magazine.

Wang's first brush with red



A tourist sits at Mao Zedong's desk.

tourism was a 2010 trip to Yan'an, the 13-year base of Mao Zedong and the Party.

Others prefer red sites for their scenery and steep terrain. Many mountain bikers follow the Red Army's routes, which are dangerous and challenging. One user named Qiannianyike at doyouhike.net said he visited all the revolutionary bases in Jiangxi by bicycle, and his next stop will be Hunan Province.

For many Chinese tourists, red travel offers a chance to put place names they learned in school with real locations – and a chance to see just how tough things were in the past, said Chang Kangjian, the marketing director of *Global Travel*.

Private company to finance Chinese soccer

By Xinji Letu

Real estate giant Dalian Wanda said last Sunday that it would invest 500 million yuan during the next three years to save Chinese soccer.

The company signed a strategic cooperation deal with the Chinese Football Association (CFA)

to hire foreign coaches, send young players to Europe for training, upgrade the domestic league and train referees.

Wang Jianlin, chairman of Dalian Wanda, said he hoped the move would help Chinese soccer rebuild its reputation with the

general public.

Unlike previous commercial sponsorships, the agreement with CFA enables Dalian Wanda to oversee the use of its money. If the cooperation proves effective over the next three years, the deal may be extended, Wang said.

In 1993, the real estate giant established a professional soccer team called Dalian Wanda Football Club. The club was dissolved in 2000 due to disappointment in Chinese soccer.

"The return of Dalian Wanda is inspiring news for

the crisis-stricken sport," said Yan Qiang, vice president of the popular Titan Sports newspaper. "The deal gives priority to young players' training and underscores a clear knowledge about the sport."

Chinese soccer quality has long been criticized by both the general public and disaffected fans. In recent years, the sport has been plagued by corruption scandals such as match-fixing.

Last year, central authorities began a corruption investigation into 100 players, officials and club owners, including Nan Yong and Xie Yalong, former heads of the CFA.

Some said the return of Dalian Wanda might be a turning point for China's struggling soccer industry. However, Yan said a single company can hardly solve the crisis, and that Wanda and the CFA will face challenges in ownership, management and operation.

China has long avoided the reality that it needs to train young players to develop a strong adult talent pool. The country today has only 45,000 young players. Japan, by comparison, has more than 500,000.

Yan said that three years is a short time and it may be hard to see quick results even if the 500 million yuan is spent on grass-roots training.

"Soccer is a social sport and not a business. You cannot expect annual returns on your investment," Yan said.



"Stinky tofu," a traditional food, it is known for its putrid smell. Some sellers cleverly renamed their tofu as "National Soccer Stinky tofu," drawing consumers who are disappointed with the performance of China's soccer players.

IC Photo

从“纸间”到“指尖” 体验新读报乐趣

北青Pad上市

¥1299

上市折扣价: ¥1588
市场价: ¥2188

创新·自主开发北青系统兼容安卓,真正开源、稳定的中文平台
个性·量身定制个性频道,财经、汽车、时尚、读书,精彩纷呈由你定
丰富·健康理念、远程教育,特色应用大集合
分享·看电影、玩游戏、听音乐、读报纸,一人购机,全家分享



方便·早北青,晚法晚,最新消息时时更新
贴心·字号可调,新闻触手可及
环保·下载五年北青法晚数字报,节省一吨新闻纸,保护十八棵
娱乐·50款预装游戏,20本名家著作,视听游随心下载



北京青年报



法制晚报



河北青年报



最新消息



青Pad图片



电子图书



高清视频



红色应用



中成药应用指南



40款游戏

北京青年报复刊三十周年庆典期间,即日起凡拨打电话预订的忠实读者可享受北青Pad的上市回馈价格优惠(预订后到货时间为1周)。

更多详情请登陆: qingyi.moreku.com 合作致电: 5863 5460 淘宝订货: techbus.taobao.com

预订专线: 5863 5068/5067

夜间热线: 5863 5863

专线接听: 周一至周六 9:00—17:00。

夜线接听: 周一至周六 17:00—22:00 周日全天。

即日起每周六北青Pad均将举办用户体验活动,活动地点:北京市朝阳区建国路71号汇通时代广场A1座。

为纪念北京青年报复刊30周年,限量纪念版北青Pad火热发售中,可免费获得大容汽修500元工时卡1张,详情致电: 5863 5460。
北青Pad入驻王府井新华书店(6层)、北京西单图书大厦(3层)、王府井外文书店(2层)、北京图书大厦亚运村分店(3层)。

北青Pad 由北青易万卷(北京)数字科技有限公司出品

合作伙伴:



Language crisis?

Experts warn about slip in Chinese language standards

Many college entrance exam graders are complaining that they keep seeing online slang being used in papers, which is not acceptable.

They are fueling an ongoing argument that the Chinese language is facing a crisis and that the language should be protected so that it remains "pure."



Many worry that the Chinese language is facing a crisis.

Yang Hongbing/CFP Photo

Young Chinese people's fondness for using phrases commonly found on social media platforms, the rise of English and worsening handwriting as a result of widespread use of computers have left Chinese educators wringing their hands, the *Straits Times* reported last Thursday.

The Singapore-based paper reported that teachers keep seeing "shenma" (magic horses, literally) in their college entrance exam papers.

The word came from a popular cyberphrase – "shenma doushi fuyun" (magic horse is just floating clouds) – used by young Chinese to mean that nothing is worth mentioning.

The *Times* said standard or traditional Chinese expressions are being replaced by phrases coined in cyberspace. Some educationists warn that the country may have a Chinese language crisis on its hands.

An education ministry report on Chinese language usage last month said that exam scripts written like an e-mail or blog were a sign of deteriorating language skills and that the overuse of newly coined expressions "impairs Chinese culture."

The report also revealed that three in 10 university students in Beijing failed a Chinese proficiency test conducted by Renmin University. About seven in 10 scored less than 70 percent.

A poll by *China Youth Daily* showed two in five young Chinese admitted they often wrote the wrong characters while seven in 10 said they would have trouble writing a formal letter and 80 percent of respondents agreed that a language crisis is looming.

The *Times* said the widespread use of computers, cell phones and other electronic devices means that Chinese people – like people in other countries – write more by using the keyboard instead of a pen.

A *Guangming Daily* poll also found that only 5 percent of respondents wrote letters to friends and contacts. The overwhelming majority reached for their mobile phones or used the Internet.

Aside from the popularity of new media platforms, growing Chinese interest in foreign languages – English in particular – is blamed for declining Chinese language standards, said the ministry's Chinese language usage report.

"English is more important than Chinese in universities," said Lin Jiacheng, a recent graduate. "It's a compulsory subject, while Chinese is optional. My friends and I all flocked to get English language certificates so we could land a good job."

Pan Wenguo, a linguistics specialist at East China Normal University, blamed China's English education for going to extremes.

"English is being taught in kindergarten. Some people even promote prenatal education in English," he said. "It sends the wrong signal that Chinese is less important."

The result is that students writing in Chinese are sometimes influenced by English syntax, said Zhu Jing, a magazine editor. "Not just students but also some noted writers are also affected," he added.

"Isn't it putting the cart before the horse to push for English learning while the quality of the mother tongue education is not guaranteed?" he said.

"The Chinese language crisis is our national crisis," Pan said. "It concerns our survival as an independent people."

(Agencies)

Weekly highlights

Anger mounts over oil spill

(AFP) – Media and green groups on Wednesday slammed the National Offshore Oil Corporation for keeping an oil spill hidden from the public.

CNOOC, in partnership with ConocoPhillips China, a subsidiary of the US oil giant, operates an oil field in Bohai Bay, off China's eastern coast, where the massive slick was detected on June 4 but only made public recently.

A strongly worded editorial in the *Global Times* accused the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of protecting the oil giant, while *China Daily* said CNOOC had an "obligation to share information."

"We cannot help but wonder: Is the SOA a serious watchdog that exists to prevent bigger incidents from happening, or a loving parent who is over-protective of his own child?" the *Global Times* editorial said.

Chinese-language newspapers also accused CNOOC of covering up the incident.

CNOOC vice president Chen Bi told a news conference the company was sorry for the negative impact of the spill but denied it had tried to cover up the incident.

"Ever since the founding of CNOOC we have never covered up any major oil spill," Chen told reporters.

Liu seeks another Asian athletics title

(AP) – Former Olympic gold medalist Liu Xiang will be aiming for his fourth continental title at the Asian Athletics Championships starting Thursday, as the region's top athletes build up toward August's world championships.

With worlds in South Korea looming, along with next year's Olympic Games, there should be plenty to motivate the 500 athletes from 45 countries taking part in the July 7 to 10 meet at Kobe Universiade Stadium.

Liu, the 2004 Athens 110-meter hurdles gold medalist, shortened his spring season to avoid stress on a tender heel but will be among 21 champions from last November's Asian Games taking part in the event.

Liu has looked strong this year. He finished second to American David Oliver at the Prefontaine Classic last month with a time of 13.00; his best time since winning the world championships in Osaka in 2007.

Spider-Man creator eyes Chinese fans

(AP) – Stan Lee wants to see the likes of Spider-Man and X-Men weaving between skyscrapers in Shanghai and battling enemies on the Great Wall.

The comic book legend has announced a joint venture with a Hong Kong investment company that aims to roll out a new superhero franchise targeted at Chinese and foreign audiences.

Lee's POW! Entertainment said in a statement issued on its website this week that the new company, Magic Storm Entertainment, will announce its first film project later this summer.

"I have been eagerly awaiting this great opportunity – a chance to combine the best of American superhero epics with the best of Chinese and Asian classical filmmaking for a motion picture that would be excitedly received worldwide," Lee said in the statement.

The third eye

Be tolerant of the interplay between Chinese and foreign languages

By Li Zhixin

No language is a completely closed and self-sufficient system, and the creation and use of neologisms does not mean that people will abandon their traditional language and culture. The interaction between or among languages cannot be separated and we should be tolerant of such interplay.

Actually, it is impossible for language to exist only on the Internet. Phrases will definitely enter into our everyday life, and its influence is inevitable, though limited. We needn't overstate its influence and take it as a scourge to our language.

Although online speech, which is usually not in accord with language rules, indeed has some impact on language, it will not bring language down because

traditional language has a self-purification function. If a new expression can be absorbed, it should be accepted by the masses; otherwise, it'll fade away.

As for some people's fears of the "invasion" of English, it just reflects a conflict of cultures.

Objectively speaking, in the context of the increasingly deepening process of globalization, it is inevitable that the general public gets access to and uses foreign languages. Where there is increasing use of foreign languages, the use of Chinese is compressed comparatively, and this is affecting people's language habits.

Also, foreign words have been absorbed into Chinese and become part of the language. History proves that languages absorb exotic vocabulary: it's necessary for cultures to develop.

What's terrible for the development of Chinese is not foreign words and online slang, but language that is unable to express independent ideas and personal expressions. When the language lacks strong culture support and is shaped by executive power, it will lose its essence. In this regard, if there is crisis on our hands, the threat comes not from the Internet or foreigners, but ourselves.

So, we should not simply prohibit or boycott this phenomenon, but protect our language through further development.

Being tolerant of foreign languages and Internet slang is a sign of cultural prosperity.

– Li Zhi, a professor at the International Communication College of Communication University of China

Beyond the metropolis

Luxury brands face challenges in lower-tier cities

By Huang Daohen

China is the future of luxury brands – so says consulting firm McKinsey and the accountants at PricewaterhouseCoopers. By 2015, the country will overtake Japan as the largest luxury goods market with expected annual sales of \$100 billion (647 billion yuan).

With market space exhausted in Beijing and Shanghai, luxury retailers are spilling into second- and third-tier cities. But will more stores mean more profits? Experts say it is important to know who is buying luxuries in China and how.



Shoppers queue to get into the Louis Vuitton boutique in a shopping mall.

Philippe Lopez/IC Photo

Spreading out

Jennifer Chou, a public relations executive, recently spent thousands of dollars on the latest Dior garments at the brand's outlet in the World Trade Center.

Chou, 35, represents the ideal consumer that every luxury brand is seeking: she has a carefree life, a high-paying job and a three-year-old daughter who is being raised by her parents.

She purchases luxury goods once or twice a month, seeking out goods that blend Chinese tastes with the exclusivity of European labels.

"The best part is you won't find anything similar being offered by other labels," said Chou, referring to her recent Dior purchase. "It has nothing to do with price, but availability."

Shoppers like Chou are expected to make China the world's largest luxury market within five years, according to research conducted by consulting firm McKinsey. In 2009, the country surpassed the US to become the second-largest luxury consuming market, with annual sales worth \$9.4 billion, accounting for 27.5 percent of global luxury goods consumption.

But a short tour inside the upscale landmark shopping mall at the World Trade Center can be dizzying, as brands such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Cartier, Armani and Hermes vie for consumers.

High-end goods are too concentrated in metropolises like Beijing and Shanghai, said Erin Chen, a researcher and analyst at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Beijing.

"That is why many of the

"There are two kinds of people buying luxury brands: the nouveau riche grab a visa shopping abroad and aspiring people who want a Gucci bag, but have to buy it at home."

luxury brands are starting to spread out, opening branches in second and third-tier cities such as Hangzhou, Wuhan, Dalian and Kunming," she said.

That is the trend, and that is what PwC advises its clients to do, Chen said.

The company's recent report said the demand for luxury goods is soaring in second- and third-tier cities, and about two-thirds of the top luxury brands are chasing this new market.

Louis Vuitton, for example, said it would treat third-tier cities the same as it does major metropolises. The company opened 27 shops in 22 cities in the past two years.

Currently, the country has more than 100 cities with populations exceeding 1 million.

Who is buying?

Many expect that Chinese luxury buyers will soon be shopping near their homes.

But Chen, a Chinese marketing veteran, said more outlets and easier access to luxury brands will not be enough to attract local consumers.

The Chinese market is complicated due to its culture and consuming behavior, Chen said. "You have to know who is buying and focus on the right customers."

Chen said there are two kinds of people buying luxury brands:

the nouveau riche who grab a visa and to shop abroad in Paris, Milan and New York, and aspiring young people who are just as eager to grab a Gucci bag but who have to buy it at home.

Shopping abroad has become extremely popular with Chinese consumers. The newly well-off are eager to know more about the outside world, and when they find that buying a Gucci bag in Paris is 30 percent cheaper, they have no reason to buy at home.

Overseas cities such as Paris, London and New York have seen a surge in Chinese buyers. Their shopping sprees topped even the biggest spenders in France and the UK last year.

The appreciation of yuan against the US dollar has also fueled this trend, Chen said. The yuan appreciated by 20 percent against the US dollar since the country announced in 2005 that it would no longer be pegged to the US dollar.

Statistics show that 60 percent of the \$13 billion worth of luxury goods bought by Chinese shoppers last year was purchased abroad.

"If that continues, who will the luxury brands [here] sell to?" Chen said.

Chen said luxury brands should be targeting aspiring shoppers who are usually younger than

30 and too busy in their work to travel abroad.

Their obsession with high-end goods should not be underestimated, Chen said. It is common for 27-year-old secretaries earning 5,000 yuan per month to blow their year-end bonus on a Louis Vuitton bag.

Chen said many luxury brands are likely to fail in China because they focus only on products that appeal to the elite, while their main domestic clients are younger shoppers.

Joining local distributors

While creating 100-percent-owned stores in target cities' shopping areas and aggressively building brand awareness works for many global brands, Chen said joint ventures with local distributors of luxury goods may be the easiest way to enter the China market – especially in second and third-tier cities.

Local distributors, such as high-end shopping malls, have helped many luxury brands reach consumers in smaller cities, Chen said. They are also experienced at setting up a distribution network.

Local mall operators are often willing to cooperate with big names and offer attractive terms, she said.

Many brands that have been successful in China, such as Lacoste, Zegna and Cartier, started this way, she said.

But attention must be paid in resolving disputes over control of the brand's image, which have killed many joint ventures, she said.

Market watch

Behind the shorting craze

By Huang Daohen

An interesting discussion in the capital markets has been how individuals should position themselves against China-related investments amid a new round of skeptic bets against the country.

Among them is Wall Street hedge fund manager Jim Chanos. The known short-seller and China bear said cracks have emerged in some US-listed Chinese companies due to their accounting problems.

Chanos said the world's second largest economy is in a bubble and will experience a hard landing.

The bets against China have been increasing since billionaire investor George Soros said last month that China's bubble is about to pop.

Whether to sell is the tough question facing many investors who are holding Chinese shares.

But Zhao Xiao, a local economics professor, said the rush of traders making bearish bets on Chinese stocks is only evidence of growing appreciation for smart money.

That is how money plays, Zhao said. "When everyone is bearish on China and you are not, you miss the next big trade," he said.

Zhao said most investors follow a simple rule: one should never short a country with more than \$2 trillion in foreign currency reserves.

China may seem to have its enormous problems, like inflation, corruption and huge government debt, but it has a strong government that is focused on addressing these problems, Zhao said.

Zhao said the country has a mountain of savings allowing the government to do so, which is very much unlike the US.

Commodity bull Jim Rogers agreed. In a recent interview with US-based CNBC, Rogers said he would not sell his China shares, but expected to pass them to his grandchildren.

Rogers said China bears like Chanos have it wrong: China could see a slowdown, but it won't be severe.

"Every country, every family, every individual has setbacks as they rise. China is going to have some horrible setbacks. America had unbelievable setbacks as we rose," he said.

Zhao said traders' pessimism and the China-shortening chorus won't harm the country's economy. The real problem for the financial sector is finding capable middle managers.

Recent years have seen more overseas students and professionals coming home. But Zhao said their return has been misleading. "Many choose to return because they see an opportunity right now, but few plan to stay forever," Zhao said.

There will be a point at which people are returning to build the motherland instead of to make a fortune, he said.

"That's why people should never short China."

Graduation is crazy-fun time



For those about to leave campus, what kind of celebration is appropriate?

IC Photo

By Wei Xi

For every college student, graduation is one of the most exciting and important moments. It indicates the end of academic life and the beginning of life in the real world.

After the ceremony, graduates usually dine out together or take group photos in their gowns. In recent years, however, people have begun celebrating in

extraordinary crazy ways.

About a month ago, a group of male students from Hunan Agricultural University streaked across campus at night. One of the participants, surnamed Liu, later wrote on the social networking site Renren that they wanted to do something crazy and memorable while they were still young.

At Harvard, undergraduate students traditionally go streak-

ing before their final exam.

Unfortunately, such behavior sometimes leads to tragedy.

A week ago, a graduate of Zhejiang University drowned while trying to get a picture of himself jumping into West Lake.

How far is too far, and are celebrations graduates crossing the line in the way they express their entrance into the world of working adults?

Comment

Reasons for behavior

There are three reasons why college students want to take crazy graduation pictures. First, they want to commemorate their youth, so when they become old and gray they can have something to recall. Second, it is a way to show personal character, because traditional graduation pictures are humorless. Third, some of them may want to seek popularity by attracting public attention. People these days are more likely to look highly upon freedom and individuality.

— Shen Qiuning, 28, village official

Students want to express individuality

Every social organization has farewell celebrations, and just because some people take it too far doesn't mean all of it needs to be condemned.

Youngsters want to pursue new ideas. Most young graduates I know think taking traditional graduation pictures is boring and think people who take these pictures are without passion and creativity. Crazy graduation pictures, meanwhile, are an expression of individuality and creativity.

— Wang Mu, 22,

Peking University alumna
Students have been Westernized

That this happened in China makes it surprising, but it's old news in many countries.

Actually, these are all fun things to do when we are young, as we will only be young once. It's cool to experience university life, free from parental control. Things are liable to get wild. But as long as it's safe, it should be fine.

This trend shows that Chinese students are becoming "Westernized," since China, and the whole of Asia, has been opening up in recent years.

— Adriel Chua, 31, Singaporean, senior project manager

We did similar things in high school

In Ukraine, people also like crazy fun. But we had this kind of fun after finishing high school. We wore special vintage clothes from the Soviet Union, borrowed from our mothers and grandmothers. We swam in fountains, sang on the street, danced and drank a lot!

After graduating from college, we didn't do these crazy things. A lot of us already had jobs, so no one wanted to do anything stupid in public.

— Victoria Pavlova, Ukrainian, manager

American blogger calls Chinese duck egg worst food in the world

By Zhao Hongyi

A CNN iReporter recently called a traditional Chinese dish called pidan — duck eggs that are served after being wrapped and preserved in clay, ash, salt and rice hulls for a month — "the stupidest motherf---ing thing I have ever put in my mouth."

Chinese reaction, to no one's surprise, was unpleasant. But the volume of the complaints was somewhat strange.

Danny Holwerda, the iReporter, tried a pidan in his kitchen without flavoring or sauce, then said it looked strange and had a bad taste.

"It's awful — it tastes like the devil cooked eggs for me," Holwerda wrote.

Pidan have been around for more than 1,000 years. The way they are prepared makes the yolk turn dark green or gray, with an odor of sulphur or ammonia. The white part of the egg becomes brown and looks like translucent jelly.

The Chinese used to eat them with ginger and vinegar and paired it with wine. In Guangdong, people like to cut them into small squares and serve them with congee.

After CNN published Holwerda's report, millions of users on Sina Weibo condemned CNN for

its lack of understanding of Chinese culture and food.

But did they really understand CNN's iReport? After all, Holwerda is just a blogger from Texas, and his report appeared on CNNgo, a CNN satellite site that focuses on travel writing.

Many commenters said one should be careful to avoid hurting others' feelings.

"You need to fully understand what the food is, how to eat and enjoy it before calling it awful," wrote Wang Xiaochun, a junior in college.

The biggest pidan company, Hubei Shengdan Healthy Food Company, wrote a letter to CNN asking it to apologize and explain that pidan is a healthy food that's low in cholesterol and great for "adjusting personal balance."

The letter said that KFC China has pidan porridge on its breakfast menu.

Holwerda eventually wrote a letter to a media outlet in Taiwan apologizing for his words. CNNgo's editor-in-chief, Andrew Demaria, also wrote, "We apologize unreservedly for any offense the article has inadvertently caused."

Other foods listed included dog meat in South Korea, fried spiders in Cambodia and fried frogs in the Philippines.



Don't tell the Chinese that pidan aren't tasty.

Jing Wei/IC Photo

Comment

Result of cultural difference

Every nation has its own specialties, and outsiders should not call them good or bad before experiencing them. All of us should respect the cultures of others and understand it completely before making any judgments.

— Chen Haona, news commentator, People's Daily
You have strange foods too!

I hate cheese, yet Europeans and Americans are proud

of it. It smells like old socks, especially after being worn in the rain. Foreign countries have many strange dishes as well, like half-cooked steak and pickled small fishes, to say nothing of cheese.

— Lao Bai, netizen, bbs.sina.com

Try pidan

Kimchi of Korea, sashimi of Japan and ants in the forest of Indonesia have all been listed as strange foods by Americans. Americans should eat more

pidan to keep their body and mind balanced, because they're always too busy getting upset in world affairs.

— Yang Jinwen, engineer, EDF Beijing
Understand and enjoy different cultures

We should sit down, seek out strange dishes and invite people who know the dishes to explain to us what the dishes are about.

— Wang Jun, professor, Peking University

Foreign disciples make pilgrimage to Shaolin Temple



Foreign disciples practice Shaolin Kung fu at the gate of the Shaolin Temple.

By Yao Weijie

The Shaolin Temple, located in Henan Province, welcomed more than 100 foreign disciples on Sunday and issued them martial arts certificates.

The travelers were mainly from the US and Canada and performed kung fu at the gate of the monastery, hoping to get a Shaolin abbot to teach them the essence of Shaolin kung fu.

The Shaolin Temple is considered the Mecca of kung fu. The most recent group of travelers, 138 in all, ranged in age and trade. Some were white-haired old men while others were primary school students; some were doctors and bankers, while others were professors and teachers.

"Their piety went beyond our imagination," said Wang Yumin, who works in the temple's liaison department. "When they arrived, they stood neatly in several teams for three hours, then all of them kowtowed to the Shaolin abbot Shi Yongxin. You couldn't see any hint of a distracting thought in their eyes."

The 138 students were part of the United Studies of Self Defense (USSD), an organization established in 1972. There are currently 120,000 members.

2004 was the first year that members took a pilgrimage to Shaolin Temple. It has organized 13 group trips to the temple since then, Wang said.

Charles Mattera is the leader



Foreign disciples show piety to the Shaolin abbot Shi Yongxin.

CFP Photos

of this year's group. Under the influence of his father, he learned karate when he was young. As a teenager, he saw a Chinese master perform Shaolin kung fu in Chinatown, which struck him as fascinating. From then on, he learned Shaolin kung fu and eventually established the USSD.

"Different foreign disciples

have different stories, but all of them have a passion for Shaolin kung fu," said Xu Jingjing, a local tour guide of Shaolin Temple.

Members of the organization performed moves that garnered applause from tourists and monks alike.

"Their kung fu isn't as perfect as the monks at the Shaolin

Temple, but as part-time students, it's not easy for them to achieve this level," Wang said.

Shi issued them martial arts certificates after they performed.

"The Shaolin Temple has been committed to Sino-foreign cultural exchange, and accepting the disciples will benefit Shaolin culture," said Shi.

French artist concludes three-month stay with solo exhibition

By Zhang Dongya

French artist Lionel Sabatte, among the first recipients of the Yishu 8 Prize, recently concluded his three-month exchange in Beijing by holding a solo exhibition inspired by the city.

In April, the Association of Yishu 8 selected three French artists to live and work in Beijing, asking that they let the city's energy feed their creativity.

Sabatte, 35, born in Toulouse, France and based in Paris, was the first of the award recipients to arrive three months ago. More than 20 of his works are currently on display at Yishu 8 Gallery.

"Actually, I can't exactly pinpoint which Chinese elements influenced me the most," Sabatte said. "I think it's a combination of my impressions and feelings about the country. When I finished my works, I was able to recognize some aspects of life in China, including my many encounters and chats with the people here."

Many of Sabatte's works include items from daily life, such



Lionel Sabatte is one of the first recipients of the Yishu 8 Prize to finish his three-month stay in Beijing.

Photo provided by Yishu 8

as matchsticks and eggs.

"I was so impressed with the

skewers on Beijing's streets. It made me think about match-

sticks, so I began painting them in my works," he said.

Sabatte lived and worked in the studio apartment near Yishu 8 Gallery during his stay. In his spare time, he often visited art districts such as 798 Art Zone, Caochangdi and Songzhuang.

"I spent a whole day in Songzhuang visiting studios and talking with the artists," he said. "I was quite touched and excited about the art space there. To tell you the truth, I was jealous."

One of his works, depicting a woman, supposedly portrays the artist himself. He said he went to a market in Beijing and saw a tortoise stretching its neck, looking everywhere. "That's me when I arrived in Beijing," he said.

For the first time, Sabatte painted on dark backdrops, drawing inspiration from Chinese ink-and-wash paintings. He found that things like stains and dirt became clear and distinct on black backgrounds.

After the exhibition, Sabatte will donate one piece to the Association of Yishu 8. He will leave Beijing next week. Two other French artists will soon arrive in the city.

Poland's three targets as president of Council of EU

By Annie Wei

Last Friday, the EU hosted a conference here to announce that Poland would hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union from July 1 until the end of the year.

In 2009, Poland was the only EU member whose economy ranked among the Top 5 in the world for positive growth, said Markus Ederer, the EU ambassador to China.

Poland ambassador Tadeusz Chomiczki said Poland's mission in the next six months is to foster European integration as a source of growth, promote security and encourage openness.

The government has learned from previous crises and designed

some measures to ensure stability and reduce risk.

Chomiczki said that the EU needs closer economic integration and more focus on growth to face future challenges; without closer integration and further reforms, long-term growth might be cut in half.

The ambassador introduced some measures the EU will enact during Poland's control of the presidency: the cost of patent protection in the EU will be reduced by 80 percent; e-commerce will be developed through the reduction of legal and administrative obstacles for entrepreneurs; and efforts will be made to increase consumer safety and confidence.

The ambassador said a single

market is the biggest asset of the EU, but its growth potential has not been entirely realized. The lack of transparency and simple rules is causing a serious barrier for entrepreneurs, and up to 60 percent of cross-border online transactions are not carried out due to legal constraints.

Chomiczki said that he believes Europe can benefit from openness, and will try to implement an EU enlargement strategy, boosting eastern partnership, assisting in reforms in southern countries and pushing forward with a global multilateral trade system.

Ederer said Poland will have strong cooperation with the EU in terms of climate change, Internet



The EU ambassador to China, Markus Ederer (left), sitting with Polish ambassador Tadeusz Chomiczki at a press conference.

Photo provided by Poland Embassy

security and financial stability.

"I think Poland is an ambitious country and it has high targets with efficient execution ability," he said.

Chomiczki said China's development has been amazing and is

an important country in the world. He said Poland will work hard to achieve its goals as president of the council of the EU, as well as expanding their reputation in China and enhancing cooperation.

EU welcomes China's easing of procurement rules

By Han Manman

China's Ministry of Finance recently relaxed certain rules that some foreign companies said favored domestic products for government procurement. The change was highly welcomed by international chambers in China that believe the move will allow foreign firms more access to the Chinese market.

Three policies – the Innovation Product Government Procurement Contract Measures, Indigenous Innovation Product Government Procurement Budget Measures and Indigenous Inno-

vation Product Government Procurement Evaluation Measures – were all abolished on July 1.

The old rules had been in effect since April 2007 and were designed to encourage domestic Chinese innovation. But as a result, the policies barred foreign companies from competing for lucrative contracts, giving foreign companies government contracts only if their products and parts were made directly in China.

The policy had been a source of controversy and tension between China and foreign business and investors. Some foreign firms said

the rules prevented them doing business in China.

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China praised the government's newest initiative.

"The repeal should be welcomed as a step toward leveling the playing field in the government procurement market in China," said Davide Cucino, president of the European Chamber.

Cucino said that for European companies invested in China, it will not only ensure that products manufactured under license from their parent company are able to com-

pete, but should also go some ways toward increasing the confidence of foreign-invested enterprises to continue partnering with Chinese domestic companies, especially in research and development.

This will in turn promote China's goals of advancing its technical innovation capabilities and will allow European companies to further contribute to China's macro goals by providing high-tech and green products, he said.

The American Chamber of Commerce in China also applauded the move, but said that more

remains to be done to allow equal access to the domestic market for Chinese and foreign companies.

Chris Devonshire-Ellis, president of Dezan Shira & Associates in China, a US Department of Commerce-listed business service provider, said the Chinese government also needs to ensure that regional governments can follow these new guidelines and not just sit back and protect their own companies.

"If they do not open up to greater participation, such activity will actually slow innovation in China," he said.

宽视野 宽生活

尚色SUNSHINE 时尚双周刊

隆重推出

INTRODUCE WITH HONOR

TEL: 65902080 65902580 E-mail: shangse@163.com



Millions prize available for you with one click

Game Time! Join light-up venue game and win millions of prize!

Three ways to win: sing-up, invite a friend, purchase tickets

Prize includes: ultimate package, invitations to player's reception, Ipad2, Sony Ericsson Xperia™ PLAY Z1i and more.....

China Open hotline: 400-707-6666

Website: game.chinaopen.com.cn

Official China Open website: www.chinaopen.com.cn

Weibo.com: weibo.com/chinaopen

Taobao: chinaopen.tmall.com

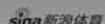
Official ticketing agent:

Ticket hotline: 400-678-6016

Ticketing website: www.shuiniaticket.com



Official Host Broadcaster



Official Website Operator



Beijing - National Tennis Center

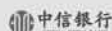
Presenting Sponsor



Mercedes-Benz

北京奔驰

Platinum Sponsors



A basic insurance guide for expats in town



Although foreigners are supposed to be provided insurance from their employer, many have to resort to buying personal healthcare plans.

Shen Jingwei/CFP Photo

By Wei Xi

In recent years more foreigners working in Beijing have begun caring about health insurance. *Legal Evening News* reported last April that at a job fair, a common question from many foreigners was whether they would get health insurance from their employers.

The local government is working to guarantee all foreigners' social welfare in Beijing. The Social Security Law of China, revised last October, includes an article stating that foreigners who have gone through legal procedures and are employed in China should be given the same health insurance as Chinese employees. Still, not all employers have taken this step.

"The law went into effect at the beginning of July, but detailed regulations and rules are still being worked out," said Yang Yansui, professor of the Institute of Public Administration at Tsinghua University.

It will be time before foreigners working in the capital are provided health insurance by their employers.

Some employers provide health insurance to their foreign employees by buying group insurance plans from local insurance companies, but a number of foreigners still have to buy insurance themselves, making it a troublesome issue.

Local insurance companies

In China, Ping An, China Life and CPIC are three major insurance companies that cover a variety of insurance plans, such as travel, property, auto and endorsement.

All of them provide health insurances as well, but those who wish to purchase individual plans cannot do so unless they couple it with another type of insurance.

Outpatient costs and hospital

visits caused by illness or accidents are covered.

Ping An Insurance Company is the only one of the three companies that provides individual and family health insurance plans, and has two types: one covers both outpatient and inpatient costs, and the other is only for inpatient visits.

The former is much more expensive, 120,000 to 200,000 yuan per year, while the latter is 4,000 to 5,000 yuan a year.

Clients can also decide the number of places to apply the insurance: just hospitals in the Chinese mainland, or in Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, the whole world excluding US and Canada, or around the world.

Dental plans are also included in some packages. Prices vary depending on age.

Ping An also has health insurance that can be purchased

online, but this service limits the number of applicable hospitals to the city in which you live.

If interested, call 95511, Ping An's hotline, and tell them you want to purchase individual insurance. You'll be put in touch with someone in charge within three days.

International insurance companies

Many foreigners prefer to purchase insurance from international companies such as Morgan Price, IMG and William Russell.

All of the three provide both individual and family health insurance, and the first two can be purchased online. Medical and hospital costs caused by illness and accidents are covered.

Like Ping An, prices depend on a client's age and selected plan.

For more information, visit morgan-price.com, imglobal.com or william-russell.com.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

As a parent living in China, I'm constantly being overcharged because vendors know there are certain products I can't do without. Are there any ways to get imported toddler supplies here?

Visit youa.baidu.com or taobao.com, popular online market places. Both of these websites are in Chinese, so you may need to find someone who can read Chinese to help with the purchase. It doesn't matter if you know the brands' Chinese names or not. Just remember, beware of fake products on these websites.

What kind of perfume is popular among Chinese women? I need to buy a birthday present for a female friend.

It depends on her age and personal preference. Normally, young Chinese women like perfume with a light smell, so we recommend products such as Love Love by Moschino, Flower by Kenzo and many of Morgan's perfumes. You can go straight to the store and ask a salesperson for advice.

I recently got a job offer in China that pays 18,000 yuan per month plus medical benefits, including dental. However, there is no housing or travel allowance. Is it a good salary?

Actually, it's a great salary, unless you'll be cleaning bathrooms every day. Even then, I'm sure all of China's actual bathroom cleaners would swap salaries with you in a heartbeat. But for 18,000 yuan a month, maybe you shouldn't eat at Maison Boulud every day – stick with the Outback Steakhouse and you'll be just fine.

(By Wei Xi)

SUBSCRIBE to BEIJING TODAY For gift!

Hotline: 010-65902513, 65902534, 65902626 (voice message function is on for 24 hrs)
Email: bjtoday@beijingtoday.com.cn Web: www.beijingtoday.com.cn

How TO GET A GIFT

a gift card worth 200 yuan valid as cash at Goose & Duck Pub

Beijing Today one-year subscription costs 104 yuan. You can get a Goose and Duck gift card worth 200 yuan. Stocks are limited, so subscribe as soon as possible.





PERK's dolls

China New Design exhibition is part of the 2011 Year of China in Italy, a presentation of 134 works by 29 Chinese designers.

This is the first time that the government has submitted an exhibition of Chinese design in Italy. The exhibition is part of an international cultural exchange program. The government has realized the importance of innovation in economic development," said Cui Qiao, curator and director of education and public programming at the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art.

Cui began working for UCCA two years ago and suggested the China New Design series to amplify the voice of the new generation of designers and spread their works.

At first, she did not know how long the lectures would last. She expected there weren't that many people who would be willing to go.

She was wrong.

China has many young designers, and they are not huddled around the nation's top commercial centers.

"Most of the [young] designers promote their products via the Internet. Their consumers not only consist of the public, but also the creativity of the designers themselves."

In the past two years, her series has presented 70 lectures, workshops and exhibitions to display the latest works by young designers working in fashion, graphic design, multimedia, architecture and interior design.

Cui selected the designers for the Italian exhibition based on feedback from viewers and UCCA's own collection.

"A good design must be something usable. If a designer's product sells well, it means his designs are useful and practical," she said. "It is an opportunity for Italians to learn about the latest trends in Chinese design and the new generation of Chinese designers who are leading the way toward more innovative design."

But the designers do not make products to fill commercial orders, so their designs are charged with emotion.

Graphic designer Chen Jiaguo and Peng Yanglin treat books like packages. Their design is a box containing a book, two pamphlets, an old train ticket, a ring, old photos, four marbles, a chair and a small box.

In 2007, Chen found an old box at the head of her bed when visiting her mother. Inside were some old photos that Chen never saw before. It was the first time she saw her father's picture. When Chen was young, her mother seldom talked about her father.

As a little girl, Chen masked boxes and decorated them with colorful paper. She was named empty-handed. More than 20 years later, her mother put the box by Chen's bed.

When Chen and Peng compiled a book about memories in 2009 by interviewing people and collecting stories and photos from the 1940s to 1980s, they decided to design the book. Chen said everyone has a "box" containing memories.

It took one year to collect 248 photos and 3,000 train tickets from the film markets.

"When I first opened the book, I was struck by the photos. These were the memories of several generations," Cui said.

Three chairs made by Duo Xiang Studio were popular when they were exhibited in Italy. Many

No room for imitators

Innovative designs displayed to foreign markets

By He Jianwei

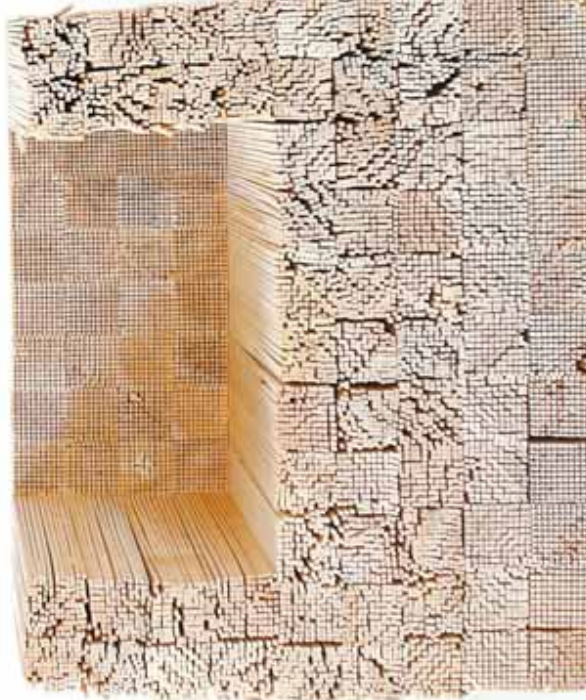
China's "Shanzhai" culture of imitation and fake goods has prevailed in recent years.

But times are changing.

Many of the country's more innovative designers are capturing the fancy of the public. Now, their designs are headed to Italy for the Milan Triennale Design Museum and the Turin Palace Museum (Palazzo Chiablese) from June to September. The exhibition hopes to shake off old concepts of "made in China" and replace them with "created in China."



PERK's sweatshirt



By slicing up the wood, Duo Xiang Studio produced a more elastic type of wood furniture for its "comb furniture" series. Photos provided by UCCA



Wang Yang's fashion label Cha Gang

“For them, the most difficult process is the production. They are more idealistic than commercial designers and do not care much about the cost of their products.”



Spoon spoon and culture spoon by MOODTOWN

Lovers fork by MOODTOWN

“The more products you make, the less you pay. When a factory receives an order for 200 T-shirts with one design, it brings down the cost so you can make more money on each sale.”



Old books offer modern inspiration

Gao Xiaolong,
collector



Albums and magazines from the Republic of China (1912-1949) period

Photos provided by Teng Zhen

By Wei Xi

A collection of 150 novels, magazines, textbooks, children's picture books, posters and book covers from the country's Republic of China (1912-1949) period is on display through June 15 at Artron Art Gallery.

The exhibit includes rare treasures like early issues of *The Young Companion* and *New China*, as well as first editions of novels by renowned author Ba Jin.

The exhibition, titled *The Most Beautiful Private Collection of Books*, consists of pieces collected by Nan Zhaoxu and Gao Xiaolong during the last decade.

As a publisher, Nan appreciates well-designed, colorful covers, and the illustrations of old magazines pushed him to

look for more.

"I focus less on the content of books and magazines than the designs of their covers," Nan said. "The covers show the expression of a time period."

Nan said many covers and illustrations of the era were quite ahead of their time. "They were very open to combining foreign and Chinese elements," he said.

Older designs were created by hand instead of with the aid of a computer, and were as a result simpler, and more earnest, direct and mild, he said.

The exhibition is intended to give people from different social groups and fields a window into the past.

"Those working in fashion can see how people dressed in the past, and historians can

learn more about the general mood of society. People like me can find inspiration in the designs," Nan said.

Contrary to Nan, Gao, the other collector, valued more the content of magazines and books.

"I first encountered most of these books as a child, and I was drawn to them because they were so different from what I saw and what I was taught," Gao said.

Gao grew up during the Cultural Revolution, when people wore only black, white, army green or washed-out blue. In school he learned that society during the time of the Republic of China was an abyss of darkness, and people's lives consisted of suffering and more suffering. "Those books and magazines

showed me an entirely different world. I was astonished to see people had such interesting lives at that time. I saw hardships as well as happiness in that society," he said.

Gao began collecting old paper products as a child; today, he has more than 4,000 books and magazine, most of which he purchased from online auctions.

"I hadn't thought of displaying [my collection] in public until I posted several of the book and magazine covers on Weibo. It turned out a lot of people born in the 1980s had a great interest in these old books," he said.

"That's when I decided it was worth letting young people learn more about the society of that era," Gao said.

The sinking of the 'Chinese Titanic'

By Xinji Letu

The Taiping, a steamer bound for Keelung from Shanghai, sank off the Zhoushan islands on January 27, 1949, killing nearly 1,000 refugees who were fleeing their war-torn hometowns at the end of the Chinese Civil War.

Only 38 passengers survived.

Taiwanese writer Vivian Chang visited survivors and their families while working on *Taiping Steamer 1949*, her new book that tells the story of the tragedy.

"During the political upheaval, many average families were torn apart. That's something we should focus on instead of the big names that found glory," Chang said at her book's Beijing release on June 25.

In January 1949, the Communist Party of China gained the upper hand in its fight against the ruling Kuomintang. Many people were anxious to escape the war and sought refuge in Taiwan. The Taiping Steamer, which had made regular trips between Shanghai and Keelung since 1948, became the last hope for the many waves of refugees.

At midnight on January 27, the day before the new lunar year, the Taiping steamer collided with a small cargo ship and plunged to the depths. The ship, which had a maximum capacity of 580 passengers, was carrying more than 1,000.

"I wrote this book because of my mother," Chang said.

Chang's mother was one of the migrants who came to Taiwan on the Taiping. She told many stories about the ship to Chang when she was a child.

After Chang's mother died in 2000, Chang found her mother's Shanghai ID card among her possessions and a contact book full of dead telephone numbers.

"When I found three gold bars in my mother's drawer, which she brought to Taiwan during the war, I cried a river with my knees on the floor," Chang said. "That was when I decided to try to preserve the story of the Taiping for my parents and others in their generation."

In December 2004, Chang began producing a documentary called *Searching for the Taip-*



Taiping Steamer 1949
By Vivian Chang, 285pp,
SDX Joint Publishing House,
30 yuan

ing Steamer with the help of Phoenix TV. After visiting various places in US, Hong Kong and Taiwan, the documentary aired in May 2005.

"Since then, the Taiping steamer has been something I could not forget," Chang said.

In her book, Chang interviews the survivors of the Taiping wreck and relatives of those who died. The book records their stories of drifting.

The fates of the Taiping passengers were varied. Some were born on the deck; some lost their entire families; some found a better life in Taiwan.

But no matter whether they became famous generals or common people, they did so in a strange land. For the passengers, the events of January 1949 forever changed their lives.

"There were nearly 2 million mainlanders who migrated to Taiwan in 1949. The Taiping's wreck is only a small interlude in that history," Chang said.

By writing down so many chapters about separations and reunions, "I hope the book can fill the blank about that unwritten history. For the sake of peace, we should replace vicious confrontation and suspicion with reconciliation and co-existence. That's why we need to remember the Taiping steamship," Chang wrote in her book's preface.

Timezone 8 book listing

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it recommends three upcoming titles to *Beijing Today* readers.



Liu Bolin:

Hiding in the City

By Liu Bolin, 150pp, Blue Kingfisher / Timezone 8, \$50

Liu Bolin was born in 1973 and took up photography in 2005. His well-known *Hiding in the City* series, in which he camouflages himself against various urban backdrops, was inspired by the demolition of the Suojiaocun artist village in Beijing.



Shi Zhiying:

Paradise • Earth

By Shi Zhiying, 73pp, Blue Kingfisher / Timezone 8, \$25

Shi Zhiying creates animations, oil paintings and performances that combine dance and music. Across these media, her approach is characterized by an attempt to grasp and make a complete account of essentially ungraspable entities, such as oceans or even grass.



Ling Jian:

Moon in Glass

By Ling Jian, 104pp, Blue Kingfisher / Timezone 8, \$30

During his three decades in Vienna, Hamburg and Berlin, Ling Jian found fame with his stylized portraits of beautiful and highly expressive women, often produced on oversized circular canvases. He uses the portrait genre to explore themes of materialism, wealth, modern ideals of female identity and body image.

(By He Jianwei)

Celebrities go 'kawaii'

By Xinji Letu

The younger generation has been greatly influenced by Japan's cartoon culture. For many young people, cute and child-like images are the way they can best express their ideas.

In their eyes, the celebrities they admire or look up to are supposed to appear as, *kawaii*, or cute, as their television and comic book heroes.



Wokao's cartoon album covers have been well received by many websites.

What would celebrities look like if cartoons were real?

That was the challenge laid down by Worth1000, a popular photography and graphic design site. Organizers called on the Web's Photoshop wizards to morph celebrities into Japanese cartoon characters.

The contest attracted hundreds of participants within a very short time. Popular subjects were old-time stars like Audrey Hepburn, Jane Fonda and Harrison Ford as well as younger pop acts like Justin Bieber and Robert Pattinson.

In general, all the entries had three features in common: the faces were as slim as possible, the eyes as wide as possible and the eyelashes as long as possible.

Most voters agreed that Liv Tyler looked better with super-size peepers, but Audrey Hepburn came in first place.

But was the contest that original?

Wokao, an artist living in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, has been posting similar illustrations to the Web for years. His "Super Me on Record" series features album covers where the singers have been swapped for wide-eyed, numb-looking caricatures.

"It's a different way to show my personal experience," Wokao said. "Lots of people post pictures of CDs they have or have listened to - I prefer to present them in my own way."

Wokao said he has been drawing the pictures for years though he has no art training.

Influenced by Jimmy, a well-known Taiwanese illustrator, Wokao developed his style to have extremely large eyes and no mouth.

"As my characters evolved, I found the mouth unnecessary. It was possible to show everything using the eyes alone," Wokao said.

He has already drawn more than 100 pictures.

"When you see the cartoon character alone, it looks like a normal figure. But if you put the character in a different context, it seems to help flesh out its personality," Wokao said.

His cartoon album covers have been well received by many major websites including Douban and Renren, both popular with young artists and students.

Wokao's work can be interpreted as part of the "cute look," a popular artistic platform through which young people explore and express their world outlook. "What you think and the way you think are clearly reflected by what you do," he said.

"As an art form with great vitality, cartoons can create many visual effects with combinations of other art forms and techniques," said Zhao Qing, chief designer of an international design company and a former popular illustrator.

Zhao said that the Chinese generation that grew up in the 1980s and 1990s was greatly influenced by Japanese cartoons. Many now use cartoon images to express their ideas.

To recreate real people in a cute, animated style is something that resonates with many young people, he said.



Architect Zhang Yonghe

By Annie Wei

Zhang Yonghe, an architect who has worked in the US and who is known for his alternative designs, has taken his vision and applied it to more practical and everyday items.

Zhang said architectural design is based on understanding life. Born and raised in Beijing, he's familiar with the daily items that surround the people of northern China.

His bottle gourd-shaped kitchenware, for example, is made of fine bone porcelain and looks delicate and intriguing.

His inspiration came from *piao*, a tradi-

tional kitchenware made from halves of dry bottle gourds.

"The concept of a *piao* is clear, smart and easy to make," Zhang said. Also, though the *piao* has been used for many years, it has not really been utilized in design.

Zhang's design is simple yet elegant: by cutting a bottle gourd from different angles and turning them into different sizes, they can be used as bowls and plates. They can also be reassembled into a gourd.

Zhang's *piao* series is available at Beijing ACF furniture and design.

Zhang said he has many interests; he even considered making movies 30 years ago.

"I like detective stories, I like watching people and things around them, especially what they wear and use, so I have a strong interest in clothes," he said.

Although Zhang likes to wear colors, his formal outfits are always the classic shirt-and-jacket combo: dark colors outside and light colors inside.

Zhang's apparel design is practical and kind of plain – that is, until you pay attention to the details. For example, once he saw a piece of quality pink linen at a tailor's store and used it to make a T-shirt's sleeves.

"Apparel design is different from architectural design," Zhang said.

The latter is for people who live in, so there is a lot of responsibility, he said. But clothes are more casual and fun.

Zhang's clothes are available at Brand New Store, starting at 480 yuan.

Zhang also designs accessories such as rings and necklaces, some shaped like small rooms. His accessories are not yet available in any store.

ACF

Where: D-07, Zhonger Jie, Dashanzi 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 7 pm
Tel: 5978 9945

Brand New Store

Where: 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 1-8:30 pm
Tel: 6416 9045

Architect tries hand with kitchenware, fashion and accessories



Different sizes of bottle-gourd kitchenware, 100 to 1,500 yuan



Women's wear, starting 500 at yuan



Accessories, price to be decided



Men's wear, starting at 700 yuan



A bottle gourd-shaped plate, starting at 1,000 yuan

Photos provided by Feichang Jianzhu

Fine dining for traditional French and Italian dishes



Six snails on a bed of soft potato mousseline

By Annie Wei

To really learn about French and Italians, you have to get to know their dishes. *Beijing Today* found two nice restaurants whose new menus shouldn't be missed.

Le Pre Lenotre, embracing the French government's campaign titled "So French, so good," came out with a 10-day menu of classic French dishes from different regions; meanwhile, Barolo's new Italian chef is giving some well known Italian dishes a few great twists.



Sea bass

Photos by Thomas Jouan

Classic French dishes at Le Pre Lenotre

By Annie Wei

"So French, so good" is the name of a worldwide campaign the French government has been carrying on since February.

As food is so important to French culture, a series of wine-and-dine celebrations will take place in many countries and regions beginning tomorrow and lasting until July 14, French National Day.

To embrace the campaign, Sofitel Wanda Beijing is offering a traditional French menu until July 14.

The food at Le Pre Lenotre is something gourmets shouldn't miss. For 388 yuan, one can enjoy a three-course lunch; for 888 yuan, one can try the seven-

course dinner.

The menu is specially designed for the campaign, mainly providing classic French dishes.

Chef Yannick Ehrsam said he uses lots of common ingredients and products used daily by French people. Ehrsam only uses two or three flavors per dish so that diners can identify the ingredients easily.

The menu gathers specialties from different regions of France. For example, sea bass is popular near the Mediterranean, oyster from Arcachon, scallops from French Brittany, black truffles from Champagne, egg cooked with Burgundy wine from Burgundy, goose liver from Alsace and duck liver from the southwest.

We tried dishes from both the

lunch and dinner menu. Our favorite was snails, a classic French dish. Six snails are served on a bed of soft potato mousseline. The snails, imported from Burgundy, are fat, tender and tasty. Also, the potato mousseline is fine and creamy.

Duck breast with morel mushroom sauce and potato gratin comes recommended. The duck meat is juicy and yummy, topped with black and white sesame. The mushroom sauce gives a strong aroma. It comes in such a big serving that any Chinese man who thinks European cuisine cannot fill his stomach should really try it.

Other dishes include pan-fried duck liver with cumin-flavored cream and apple puree, crispy sea bass fillet on a green pea mash

and light garlic cream, asparagus soup with mimosa egg and gratified poached egg, wagyu beef with mushroom sauce.

Desserts include traditional crème caramel pudding or chocolate profiteroles.

If fine dining is too much, you can still enjoy the French Week Festival at the hotel restaurant VIC, where chef Manfred Wimmer will garnish a French buffet.

Le Pre Lenotre

Where: Building C, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: July 7-14, 11:30 am - 2 pm; 6-10 pm

Tel: 8599 6666
Cost: 388 yuan for 4 courses; 888 yuan for 7 courses



Chef Yannick Ehrsam

VIC

Where: Building C, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: July 9-16, 228 yuan for lunch buffet and 288 yuan for dinner buffet, Sunday brunch starting from 328 yuan; 11:30 am - 2 pm; 6-10 pm
Tel: 8599 6666

Barolo's new chef brings new dishes from traditional Italian home cooking



Chef Gianluca Visani

By Annie Wei

Barolo, the Italian restaurant of the Ritz-Carlton named after a famous wine region in Italy, has an updated menu created by its new Italian chef, Gianluca Visani.

Before coming to Beijing, Visani worked for 12 years as head chef at many high-rated restaurants in Singapore, Europe, the UK and the United Arab Emirates. He also worked alongside Michelin-starred chef Marco Torri in London.

Visani's specialty is bringing the taste of traditional Italian home cooking through new creations.

To start, we tried an appetizer (298 yuan for 2) of a piece of dry ham surrounded by a piece of sweet melon, with Balsamic vinaigrette and olive oil. The melon's sweetness matched the ham's flavor. The recipe is simple, able to be easily recreated - though perhaps not to the same quality - as a finger food at home parties.

We tried two of Visani's ravioli - the prawn ravioli with lobster cream sauce and crispy zucchini (168 yuan) and veal ravioli with mushrooms and truffle cream, summer truffle (158 yuan).

The ravioli, with its thin skin, were expertly made.

For main dishes, we liked the Atlantic cod with red bell peppers and watercress cream (248 yuan). For many Chinese diners, the ways Europeans prepare fish are too dry, especially grilled salmon. But Visani's Atlantic cod is juicy and light: grilled seven to eight minutes at 170 to 180 degrees; pairing it with red bell peppers and watercress cream retains the cod's natural flavor.

We also liked the suckling pig with caramelized radicchio and vincotto sauce (298 yuan). It's not as oily as it sounds, and quite meaty.

Many other diners enjoy Barolo's signature tiramisu (78 yuan), a big tiramisu topped with mint and coffee beans. We think it too sweet.

As Barolo is known as an Italian wine region, the restaurant's wines are of very high quality. We tried BAVA, Gavi di Gavi, Cor de Chasse DOCG, Italy (760 yuan), an elegant and pleasant white wine, and Prunotto Flut Vineyard, Barbera de Asti DOC, Italy (670 yuan), a full-body and well-balanced red.

Barolo

Where: 83A, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: noon - 2:30 pm; 6-10:30 pm
Tel: 5908 8888



Scallops with cured pork cheek, grilled asparagus, Champagne saffron sauce, black olive powder, 298 yuan



Prawn ravioli with lobster cream sauce, 488 yuan Photos provided by Barolo



Barolo's signature tiramisu, 78 yuan

Chinese-American artist still rooted in China

By He Jianwei

Though he's lived in the US for nearly 20 years, Chinese-American oil painter Xinsheng Wang draws inspiration from China in his latest works, especially in the Tibetan, Sichuan Earthquake and Sun Yat-sen series.

On the third floor of Today Art Museum are two of his pieces from the Sichuan Earthquake series. After the earthquake struck on May 12, 2008, Wang downloaded many photos taken from the worst hit areas. One photo of a man sitting on debris and holding a schoolbag inspired him to

begin *Sichuan Earthquake - After Quake* five days after the earthquake hit. It took five days to complete the work.

In another piece, *Sichuan Earthquake - Wish*, he draws a sorrowful schoolgirl surrounded by white candles in the shape of a heart.

After finishing the two pieces, Wang mobilized people in Houston to donate for disaster relief. "After the exhibition, I will donate these two pieces to those people affected by the disaster on May 12 of next year," Wang said.

Wang isn't merely a realistic

painter; he also uses impressionistic techniques.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Xinhai Revolution, which overthrew the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Wang drew portraits of Sun Yat-sen, the leader of the revolution.

In the one of the portraits, Sun is reading a revolution manifesto and his body is the trunk of a big tree, symbolizing his ideals taking root and spreading throughout the land.

Born into an artistic family in 1949 in Xi'an, Wang studied traditional Chinese painting from the master painter Chen Jingtang at

the age of six. In college, he turned to oil painting. He creates a new language by combining Chinese free-hand style with oil painting.

Wang also contributes to art education. He set up Xinsheng Wang Art School in Houston. In the last 15 years, more than 3,000 students have graduated from the school. Former Houston mayor Bill White declared March 15, 2004 as Xinsheng Wang Day for Wang's artistic achievements and his contribution to art education in local communities.

Imagery Evaluation - Xinsheng Wang's Solo Exhibition

Where: Today Art Museum, 32 Baizwan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until July 10, 10 am - 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 5876 9804



Holy Sun Yat-sen
Photo provided by Xinsheng Wang



Saturday, July 9

Nightlife Blood Scarified - Rock Music Festival

As many as 20 local metal

bands will present gothic, thrash, new melodic and other hardcore styles.

Where: Hongdian Art Factory, Courtyard 36 (500 meters south of Carrefour Shuangjing, inside small alley), Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 1:30 pm
Admission: 80 yuan, 60 yuan for students
Tel: 5205 1113

Exhibition



X-Field Beijing - Jumping City Group Exhibition

This group exhibition focuses on emerging Chinese urbanity, especially in Beijing.

Where: CU Space, 706 Beisan Jie, 798 Art Zone, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

District

When: Until July 23, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9576

Movie



My Chinese Acquaintances (2010)

This documentary tells the story of an important but seldom mentioned aspect of World War II: the story of American troops in China during wartime.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 6 pm
Admission: 25 yuan
Tel: 8404 4166

Friday, July 8

Exhibition Wim Delvoye Solo Exhibition

Loosely grouped to give a first impression of some of Delvoye's important works, this solo exhibition exposes us to the humanness of both the physical body and our social structures, particularly those sides that are not always pleasant, warm or generally considered constructive, but are equally valid and relevant to our being.

Where: Galerie Urs Meile, 104 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 31, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 3393

Movie

A City of Sadness (1989)

This Taiwanese historical drama tells the story of a family embroiled in the tragic "White Terror" that

was wrought on the Taiwanese people by the Kuomintang government after their arrival from mainland China in the late 1940s, during which thousands of Taiwanese were rounded up, shot or sent to prison.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 7 pm
Admission: 25 yuan
Tel: 8404 4166

Nightlife

Tedious Summer

Ju Qi, a folk singer who has topped Douban musician rankings for eight weeks, flies to Beijing to unleash his energy.

Where: Hongdian Art Factory, Courtyard 36 (500 meters south of Carrefour Shuangjing, inside small alley), Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 35 yuan
Tel: 5205 1113

Sunday, July 10

Movie Gone With the Wind (1939)

This classic Oscar-winning film stars Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh and is set during the American Civil War, featuring some of the most famous lines in American cinema history.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu,

Dongcheng District
When: 4 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

Nightlife

Random Buzz

Nuerman and Lindy, two college students from the US, express their interpretation of freedom and randomness through indie music.

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5900 0969

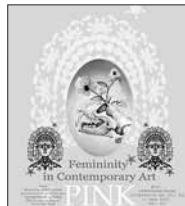
Exhibition

Pink - Femininity in Contemporary Art Group Exhibition

This group exhibition explores femininity in contemporary art. The artists involved express strong personal feeling in their works.

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 797 East Street, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until July 21, daily

except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9698



(By Xinji Letu)

Upcoming

Nightlife

Mamer & IZ's New CD Release

One of the most anticipated albums of the year in the independent music scene, *Shadow* by internationally acclaimed Kazakh musician Mamer and his band IZ will be released on Thursday.

Where: Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzhihong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: July 14, 9:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan for advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door
Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in August

Concert

Myung-whun Chung and Asia Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-800 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Sun Yingdi Piano Recital

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 200-280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Roger Lord Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaochengyuan Lu, Xicheng District

When: August 21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 20-100 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Dance

Rojas and Rodriguez's Flamenco

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 13-14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 160-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Crosstalk Travelers

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: August 5-7, 7:30 pm
Admission: 190-900 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Hysterics

Where: Nine Theater (TNT), Chaoyang Culture Center, 12 Jintai Li, Chaoyang District

When: August 25-28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-200 yuan, 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6551 6930

Opera

Rigoletto

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 25-27, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-800 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Avoid stomach bugs this summer

Dangerous foods

In order to reduce your risk of exposure, Fu Jinru, secretary of the Chinese Nutrition Society, suggests avoiding the following foods.

1. Grilled chicken wings

Chicken wings cooked over an open flame produce polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, a carcinogen which can accumulate in the body and cause stomach cancer, colon cancer or other cancers, as well as heterocyclic amine, another carcinogen proven to cause breast cancer and colon cancer.

"As far as barbecued meats go, the fatter they are the more carcinogens they will produce," Fu said. "Burnt skin contains more carcinogens than the meat itself." A chicken's wings are also where the bird is vaccinated and injected with hormones, so it is possible the wing tips have more hormone deposits than other parts of the body.

2. Aquatic products

In summer, many cases of diarrhea are caused by eating spicy crawfish, fried river snails and grilled seafood, Fu said.

The hot and humid summer environment creates ideal conditions for the growth of intestinal bacteria, and seafood like crawfish and river snails are often carriers of parasites like threadworms and paragonimiasis.

"It is hard to kill parasites in crawfish's body no matter whether you bake, fry or pickle them. If you eat a raw or half-cooked crawfish, the parasites will enter your body and infect the lungs, liver, brain and abdominal cavity," he said.

Another pathogenic bacterium, vibrio parahaemolyticus, is often found in seafood and has a strong resistance to heat. Given it can survive at temperatures of up to 80 C, common roasting is not enough to ensure food safety.

3. Uncooked food

Cold dishes like kelp salads, lotus roots, dried beans and mushrooms have health risks.

Kelp can become soft, sticky and stinky if it has been left to sit for too long. Some restaurants add chemicals to mask the texture and color, Fu said. Lotus roots, dried beans and needle mushrooms brown after cleaning due to oxidation, so some vendors use sodium hydrosulfite to make the dish seem clean and white.

4. Malatang (spicy stewed foods)

Vegetables, meats and bean products are repeatedly boiled in malatang and the soup bases are recycled. But nitrite levels in the broth build up over time and can cause a diner to end up with nitrite poisoning if they are not changed from time to time.

5. Draft beers in bulk

The shelf life of draft beer is shorter than bottled beer, and it needs to be preserved at temperatures of 3 to 8 C. Draft beer sold on the market is usually freshly brewed beer that has not been pasteurized. If the hygienic conditions in snack stalls and restaurants are not good, draft beer is easily contaminated.

By Li Zhixin

An E. coli epidemic killed 35 people and sickened more than 3,000 in Europe. Of those ill, more than 800 have developed complications which could prove fatal.

The outbreak, which hit Germany hardest, has made world food regulators take a hard look at their standards.

The Ministry of Health announced contingency plans to prevent the introduction of the bacteria to China's food supply on June 10. The Beijing Public Health Bureau and Municipal Center for Disease Control also advised consumers to avoid eating at roadside food stalls and sidewalk snack booths.

"Summer is the peak season for gastrointestinal illness. There have always been isolated E. coli infections all over the world, but never anything so concentrated," said Zhou Rongbin, director of the Emergency Department at the General Hospital of the Beijing Military District.

"Most E. coli infections begin through oral ingestion. They are usually food-borne and spread by eating meat, raw vegetables and seafood," he said.

Common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, fever, headache and watery, bloody diarrhea. "If you have the above symptoms, you really need to see a doctor immediately. Any delay in treatment puts your life at risk," he said.



CFP Photo

Prevention

1. Wash your fruit and vegetables carefully before eating them.

"If a family member has diarrhea, stop eating raw vegetables," said Zhou Rongbin. "In general, E. coli and many other bacteria can be killed when food is heated to 70 C.

2. Wash your hands regularly.

One of the major ways that gastrointestinal disease spreads is when people do not wash their hands after using the toilet. Carefully clean your hands with soap before eating and cleaning vegetables.

3. Use separate cutting boards for vegetables and meat.

Raw foods can easily pick up E. coli and other pathogens. If you place them near cooked foods, you risk cross-contamination. Clean any cutting boards and knives with hot water every few days to sterilize them.

4. Don't eat a half-cooked steak.

Beef is easily polluted by many bacteria during slaughter. Intestinal problems are almost guaranteed if the meat is not cooked at a high enough temperature.

5. Don't drink tap water directly.

Even in Canada there have been cases of water pollution causing an E. coli epidemic.

6. Promptly dispose of your kitchen waste.

Bacteria inside the garbage multiply fast when the temperature is above 30 C.

ABCs of E. coli

E. coli is just one nasty member of a much bigger family of bacteria, said Guo Xinghua, a researcher at Institute of Microbiology, the China Academy of Science. Not all of its forms are pathogenic.

E. coli bacteria were discovered in 1885, and by that time had long been a part of normal human intestinal flora. In the mid-20th century, scientists found that certain types of E. coli could be pathogenic to humans and animals, especially infants, young animals and poultry.

The E. coli strain that generates a shiga-like toxin is one of the strongest pathogens. "Actually, E. coli is not a new bacterium. It has always existed in nature. It can't multiply rapidly and spread diseases unless all the conditions are right. It needs the right temperature, the right humidity and the right host," he said.

Guo said a mutation in E. coli may have been why Germany's infection was so serious.

A joint study conducted by Beijing Genomics Institute Shenzhen Branch and German Eppendorf University Hospital showed that the bacterium that triggers the epidemic was a mutant of the distant relative of the common E. coli.

The new mutation had a greater ability to adhere to intestinal cells, which amplified its destructive power.

Chinese traditional arts at foot of the Great Wall

By Zhang Dongya

The folk culture exhibition, featuring intangible cultural heritage, opened at Wangjing Culture Square in Badaling Great Wall last Monday. More than 20 masters from all regions of the country showcased their skills at making *tangren* – sugar figurines – snuff bottles and New Year's paintings.

The one-month show is part of the first Badaling International Dragon Culture Festival. Many of the performers and artisans are old and have not passed on their skills to succeeding generations, so they're ready to share the stories behind their techniques.



CFP Photo



Glassware handicrafts



Yangliuqing wood painting and the history of a city

In north China, New Year's paintings used to be very popular, especially in rural areas. The most famous was Jiqing Wawa, or "auspicious doll," produced in Yangliuqing, a town in west Tianjin. The wood painting in Yangliuqing was once the typical New Year's painting for the north, while in the south, the wood painting at Suzhou's Taohuawu was the representative work.

The 10th successor of the Yangliuqing painting, Chen Zhinan, brought the work to the festival, along with introductions of the painting and Zhongxinghao Studio, which was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Recent works are also on display, and some have been sold, such as a six-meter-long Baizitu, or painting of 100 people, and a set of 12 paintings of Jiqing Wawa.

Chen said Zhongxinghao Studio in Yangliuqing Town, Tianjin was reopened last December, displaying and selling the wood paintings. The studio, which was built during Wanli's reign, was closed in 1908 while it was being operated by Chen's grandfather, Chen Baoyu.

Chen said the wood painting is related to the history of Tianjin. In the 1400s during the Ming Dynasty, several chaomidian – stir-fried rice shops – were built in the country as food supply stations for the military. The first two were built in Shandong Province, the third in Tianjin and the fourth in Beijing. Some villages named after chaomidian have survived: there's one in Beijing in Fangshan and one in Xiqing, Tianjin.

"To some extent, the history of Tianjin began with the chaomidian," Chen said.

Many generations ago, Chen Ming was in charge of the grain warehouse in Tianjin. He brought paint from his hometown in Shandong and spread it on the gate to exorcise evil spirits. He also distributed paintings to other people. Later, he set up a painting studio to create and sell the paintings. It has expanded into 30 branches since then.

One of the unique aspects of chaomidian is their orientation. While most of the buildings during that time faced south, houses in chaomidian face northwest.

Nowadays, in some rural areas in north China, people still post the New Year's painting the classic auspicious doll. But most of them are made from paper, since the wood painting is too expensive for daily use.

Continued on page 21...



Yangliuqing painting is a typical New Year's painting in northern China. CFP Photo



A craftswoman paints a dressing box



An artist demonstrates how to paint the inside of a snuff bottle.

Photos by Mockingbird



A clay sculpture

Fewer and fewer young people know how to make traditional crafts such as sugar figurines.

Photo by Beijing Jerch Culture Media



An artisan making a paper-cut silhouette

Photos by Mockingbird



Traditional crafts usually attract foreigners.

...continued from page 20

Hengshui's painted snuff bottles

Snuff bottles painted on the inside were first created during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). As the art developed, four schools were formed in Beijing and Hebei, Shandong Province and Guangdong provinces. The Beijing school was the earliest, while the Hebei school gained the best reputation.

Painter Guo Yanyi, the third successor of the Hengshui painted snuff bottle, brought dozens of works to the exhibition and showed off a special brush. The works range from 260 yuan to 100,000 yuan.

Guo said the Hengshui painting school was very innovative. Beside traditional paintings and patterns, they also painted designs from European countries. In addition to water-based ink, they also used oil paints inside the bottles.

Fewer successors

The blowing of sugar figurines always attracts a crowd. The craftsman first melts the sugar to a syrup using an induction cooker – no longer do people use sawdust stoves like in the past – and then blows it into various shapes.

The craft, once commonly seen on the street, can now only be seen during temple fairs.

A child from Zhejiang Province stared at the figurine, saying he's never seen it before.

"There are fewer and fewer people who can do this," said Liang Haijun, a craftsman. He said he was worried for the craft's future.

He has no apprentice and only makes money from his figurines during temple fairs in Beijing, Hebei and Henan provinces. He said his children don't want to learn the craft because they consider it outdated.

"The 'sugar man' is only a novelty," he said.

A sugar man can keep its shape for months, even a year, like other sugar products.

"New industries have replaced the old ones – a normal change," Liang said. "But I hope some traditions can be protected and passed down."

Getting to Badaling: Take Subway Line 2 to Jishuitan and transfer to Fast Bus 919 to Badaling.

Badaling Great Wall

Open: 6:30 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6912 1383

Admission: 45 yuan

Note: It's recommended that visitors go in the morning, when it's not as hot.

The folk culture exhibition, which lasts until August 2, is at the Wangjing Culture Square. Admission is free.



The first Badaling International Dragon Culture Festival

This year marks the 30th anniversary since the Badaling Office's opening in 1981. The office hopes to protect and repair some of the Great Wall. So far, the protected part has been extended to 7,441 meters from the original 500 meters 30 years ago.

The first Badaling International Dragon Culture Festival, which opened last month, will last for three months. It will feature events such as a traditional dragon dance competition and a forum on world heritage protection and development.

Hotel



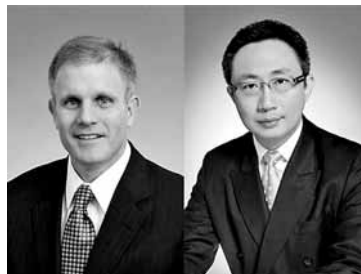
Summer Romance 2011

Your most important day requires special attention. Let the wedding consultants at the Regent Beijing arrange every detail.

Your dreams, our culinary expertise and a dedicated team with a personal touch will ensure this special moment in your life takes shape in a unique and stunning environment.

Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: July 31, 1:30-3 pm
Tel: 8522 1888 ext. 5633



Marriott International strengthens Asia sales team

Marriott International has significantly strengthened its Global Sales representation in Asia with the appointment of John Toomey as vice president,

Global Sales North Asia, and Paul Er as director of Global Sales, Singapore.

The positions provide strategic sales leadership for Marriott's global sales efforts in the region.

"These new positions have been created in accordance with Marriott International's continental structure to implement Marriott's overall sales, marketing and revenue management strategies throughout the region and help support the company's aggressive growth plans in Asia Pacific," said David Townshend, Marriott's senior vice president of Global Sales.

"Asia is critically important to Marriott and its brands, and we feel that adding these two critical functions will enable us to strengthen our leadership position in Asia, as well as communicate more effectively with our key customers in the region."

Toomey will be responsible for strategic sales leadership for the hospitality company's global sales efforts throughout Greater China, Japan and South Korea, with a particular focus on developing and managing core business segment strategies that are in alignment with Marriott's overall sales and marketing strategic priorities from his base in Hong Kong.

Er will focus on developing this strategically important source market from Marriott's Singapore office. He will cement global customer relationships and drive increased market share from new and existing global accounts.

Pollo Chen appointed Director of HR at Grand Millennium Beijing

Pollo Chen was appointed the director of Human Resources at Grand Millennium Beijing last month.

Chen, a Chinese citizen, has a postgraduate degree from Tsinghua University. He previously worked in HR at The Westin Beijing, Financial Street, the Shangri-La China Headquarters, The Kerry Centre Hotel, Beijing and China World Hotel. Prior to joining Grand Millennium Beijing, Chen was director of Human Resources at The Legation Quarter Beijing.

Chen is expected to lead the HR team to recruit high quality employees, conduct professional training and demonstrate the position of the Grand Millennium Beijing in the market.

Dining



M Bar's maiden blush cocktail

Sofitel Luxury Hotels is cooperating with the French government this month for "So French, So Good," a worldwide promotion of French products.

From July 7 to 14, the "Festival Mondial de la Gastronomie" (World Cuisine Festival) will celebrate each country's wine and food culture.

As part of the program, Sofitel Luxury Hotels is organizing a monthlong "French Week" at each of its properties worldwide.

Come relax at M Bar after a tired day at the office and discover the "maiden blush" cocktail, a genuine treat for the senses. It smells of herbs and a combination of lavender and aniseed and tastes slightly sweet and sour thanks to the strawberry flavor and rosemary finish.

Where: M Bar, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 7-14
Cost: 68 yuan per class
Tel: 8599 6666

A culinary journey through Malaysia

From July through August, Bistro Atrium is hosting a culinary journey through Malaysia. Savor the unique aromas and flavors of authentic Malaysian classics like laksa lemak, sambal goreng, murtabak, beef rendang and rojak.

The Malaysian Kitchen is part of Atrium's full dinner buffet, which includes sushi, sashimi, seafood, Asian and European dishes and decadent desserts.

Where: Bistro Atrium, Park Plaza Beijing, 25 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

When: From July through August

Cost: 188 yuan per person, includes free wine, soft drinks and draft beer. Discounts available for group bookings: groups of 4-6 save 10 percent; 7-9 save 15 percent; and 10 or more save 20 percent.

Tel: 8235 6699



Tourism



Beijing-Grand China MICE Launch Ceremony

The Beijing-Grand China MICE Launch Ceremony was held June 28 at Beijing HNA Plaza Marriott Hotel. The event was presented in a Chinese chess theme and showed HNA corporate culture by combining tradition with avant-garde modern technology.

Approximately 300 people from the National Tourism Administration, business executives, foreign tourism representatives and media groups attended. The unique event inspired and impressed many GCM guests.

Grand China MICE is one of seven core businesses and the only professional MICE operator under HNA Group. It is renowned for providing mature and advanced meeting and execution services.

Airline

Save 25% on British Airways' Club World business class

British Airways announced a special offer for its Club World customers flying from Beijing or Shanghai to the UK and Europe. Travelers who book Club World business class return tickets on ba.com before July 22 will enjoy special fares starting at 23,600 yuan — about 25 percent off the usual fare.

The offer is available for outbound travel from Beijing or Shanghai between July 8 and December 31. Travelers can go to any one of seven UK destinations including London, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle and Jersey and 16 European destinations including Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

"This is a great opportunity for travelers in China to enjoy our award-winning Club World business class at a very attractive price — they will certainly enjoy the space, privacy and entertainment choices that our state-of-the-art cabin has to offer," said Kevin McQuillan, British Airways' regional general manager, East Asia.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

Pulling one's leg



1. He described the theme of the dance thusly ...

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): "Thus" and "thusly" are both adverbs and assume the same meaning. So it is not wrong for the writer to say it in this way. However, we have to distinguish between expressions for written language and that for conversations. In this case, if this is a piece of academic writing, it is not proper to use "thusly" because it is conversational. We should use "thus" for a more serious writing style. This example tells us that though we may be not wrong grammatically, we may be wrong rhetorically.

Terry-Boyd Zhang (TBZ): I agree. I often find that adding the -ly when writing a composition, the result seems a bit awkward. Not only for "thusly," which is not commonly used, but also firstly, secondly and thirdly. In my opinion, first, second, third is enough. In the sample sentence, I would use something simpler, such as: He described the theme like this. Or, He described the theme in this way.

2. The benefits of drink tea

ZSD: The word "drink" may be a verb as well as a noun. We say, we drink Coca Cola, or we drink tea. When it is a noun, we say, we take a drink or she had a drink in her hand. However, in this sample, the word "drink" is wrongly used. It should be "drinking" instead of drink, creating a participle to modify "tea." This is a trick of the language. There are no definite rules for it. Practice more, write more. For instance, we say, tea-drinking party, we should not say tea-drink party. The sample should be: the benefits of drinking tea.

TBZ: English is a tricky language! Now, I'm not a linguist but it seems to me that English is something of a hybrid language which developed from Latin and Greek. It was, and is, a mongrel of dialects, including German, Scandinavian and French. I often tease my English students: How is your French? How is your Greek? Don't be discouraged. I am doing my best to have Chinese words enter the English language. I hope that words such as dim sum, hutong, and even Beijing (formerly Peking) will soon have widespread use among native speakers!

3. They hope to one day see their children assimilate into the city.

ZSD: There is nothing wrong with this sentence grammatically. However, the adverbial of time "one day" is not properly placed, making it sound very awkward. Which word does the adverbial phrase modify? It is "to assimilate" that "one day" modifies. So, the sample sentence should be: They hope to see their children assimilate one day into the city. Or: They hope to see their children assimilate into the city one day. The placing of the adverbial phrase in a sentence is very important to make your writing read smooth. So small a matter as it is, it has to require your great attention.

TBZ: I personally like the second way better, placing "one day" at the end. There is a sense of continuousness in it. The first way is correct but the sense I get is that the children will assimilate for one day, and only one day, and then be misfits again. I think we would all like our children to, if not "assimilate" (a big idea with a loss of identity, in my opinion), then perhaps simply "find acceptance" in the city, or anywhere they are for that matter.

By Yao Weijie

Zhang Liping, one of my best friends, married an American teacher named Martin in China. They live a happy life, but the cultural gap is always tricky to deal with.

Not familiar with China, Martin rarely goes out shopping. Once, seeing his wife was too exhausted after a day's work, he volunteered to buy some vegetables. When he got to the vegetable market, he found that his language skills weren't good enough to communicate with the farmers; consequently, he was cheated, paying 30 yuan for vegetables that should have been 5 or 6 yuan.

Martin didn't know he made a mistake, thinking he'd pleasantly surprise his wife. Zhang was surprised all right,

but not in a good way. "What are you doing? You're too *hu*," she said.

"Hu? I know that means tiger in your language, but what do you mean? I didn't behave like a man?"

Zhang didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She's from northeast China, and in her hometown, *hu* refers to a person who's stupid. After explaining that to her husband, he became embarrassed.

But the language problems cut both ways. Though Zhang's English is better than Martin's Chinese, she recently committed a blunder as well.

Last Saturday, both of them were in a long-distance run. As Martin's a bit overweight and out of shape, he quickly ran out of breath and after a while could only pant out the words,

"Honey, wait for me."

"Look at your legs, so short, that's why you can't catch up with me," Zhang said, laughing. "From now on, I'll call you 'fat husband.'"

"Don't pull my leg," Martin said.

"I didn't pull your leg, you are pulling my leg," Zhang replied.

"Pulling my leg is just a joke."

"I know it's a joke, because I can't pull your leg. But I'm telling you it's not funny."

At this point, Martin knew Zhang had misunderstood him.

"Seriously, honey, pulling one's leg in English means 'making a joke.' You made a mistake again," he explained.

This time, it was Zhang's turn to feel embarrassment.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Do Civilized BJ Men

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

Wow. Well, there isn't too much more to say about this, is there?

This Big Sister looks like your average just-over-the-hill middle ager, but you never really know someone, do you? I bet she could surprise you with stories of a wild Beijing which you did not even know existed. (Or maybe you did?) Young ladies, pay attention! You mother may know more about Beijing men than you do.

That's a scary thought, isn't it?

In fact, this sign, or something like it, is very common around Beijing: at bus stops, tourist sites and parks. It seems China has become a bit obsessed about becoming "civilized."

I don't get it. I understand that hosting the Olympics and the World Expo are huge historical honors for this great country with more than five thousand years of glo-



rious civilization, but what does "civilized" truly mean in 2011? If it means getting rid of my Shanghaiese "leisurewear" (sometimes called "pyjamas"), then forget it. I'll take my leisurewear over "civilized," thank you very much.

The first character in the photo is unclear, but it's probably *zuo* (do, make).

The next two characters are *wenming*, pretty basic ones that mean "civilized" — whatever that means. For example, Beijingers are good about offering a bus seat to those in need, whereas Shanghaiese are not. With one-and-a-half hour commutes each way every day, can you really blame them? Apparently "civilized" does not mean "no spitting," a disgusting and dirty habit and that I personally cannot get used to.

The next two characters are *youli*, which means to "have manners" (*limao* means "manners"). If your child is polite, the grandmas will praise them in this way.

The next character is *de*, which is a particle of speech, in this case meaning something like "belonging to," and the last three characters are *Beijing ren* ("person").

So, Big Sister's apron should say: "Become a Civilized and Well-Mannered Beijinger."

“Before fame, art is penniless.” Art in a cabbie's eyes

By Xinji Letu

Songzhuang, located 40 kilometers from downtown Beijing, used to be an unknown village. Today it is a world-famous art community.

Over the past two decades, artists have flocked to Songzhuang seeking success. But their arrival has dramatically reshaped the village.

“Songzhuang has been through earth-shaking changes in its cultural, social and economic life. The changes appealed to me, and I wanted to introduce them in my film,” director Xu Xing said at a movie sharing club in Beijing last Sunday.



Old Jin watches a performance in Songzhuang.

Photos provided by Xu Xing

The documentary *Five Plus Five* co-directed with Lao An captures the everyday life of Old Jin, an unlicensed cab driver, and the artists he befriends.

When artists started coming to the village, Jin bought a cheap second-hand car and started working as an unlicensed cab driver. Because of his personality and willingness to drive at any hour, he soon became a familiar face to the artists.

“I have some friends living in Songzhuang and they talk about Old Jin all the time. I thought it might be a good idea to tell stories about the artists through him,” Xu Xing, the director, said. “Once I met him in person, I decided that this was a film worth making.”

In November 2009, Xu began following Jin and recording his life.

Although Jin comes from a peasant family whose roots are in Songzhuang, he loves art. He often expounds his views on Picasso, Dali, Pollock and Kandinsky.

Xu said the satisfaction Jin draws from studying art gives him a temporary shelter from daily miseries and nuisances and brings him closer to a spiritual realm.

There is no artist in Songzhuang that Old Jin does not know, and he enjoys good relationships with many artists. His car is covered inside and out with artists' signatures, epigrams and small drawings.

Jin said he believes in the hard-working artists and often asks them to give him one of their pieces for free. Like his car, Jin carefully stores their art.

By recording Jin's everyday life, the documentary paints a vivid picture of the artists' living condition in Songzhuang.

Many self-acclaimed artists come and go, bringing with them their dreams and leaving empty-handed, making the village a merry-go-round for gamblers, a springboard to success for some and an alien, arid land for many others.

“Some succeed and some fail. That is normal in Songzhuang,” Xu said. “The reason why more than 7,000 artists come to the place is that there are more opportunities to get rich and famous.”

Thirty years ago, it was hard for people imagine that art could be bartered for money. Today, China's contemporary art fetches top prices at international art auctions.

“If you want to get rich, go rob a bank. If you are too afraid to do it, go draw pictures,” Xu said, recalling

“If you want to get rich, go rob a bank. If you are too afraid to do it, go draw pictures.”



Old Jin, an unlicensed cab driver in Songzhuang

one popular joke.

Within a short time, some artists have left Songzhuang to find unimaginable success. Many remain there in extreme poverty. “It is like gambling for them,” Xu said.

The permanent residents of Songzhuang have abandoned farming, preferring instead to make money by renting their homes to incoming artists. Many Songzhuang natives have become small business owners, operating artist-oriented eateries and supply shops.

Like Jin does with his unlicensed cab, they “serve the artists.”

Xu wrote in the film's introduction that China, to a certain extent, is a country with a malformed body. Its anomalies, present in many aspects of social life, are manifested often in an extreme degree: too much, too little, too high or too low. Some say it is the price a nation pays for breakneck growth.

Songzhuang is a glimpse of the 21st century's China. The sharp contrast between two extreme sides, both in terms of art and material life, may appear absurd, distorted and laughable, but it is the hard reality that everyone faces.

